THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) the Union Government had not agreed to provide additional plan assistance of Rs. 700 crores in 1995.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Launching of Ocean Sat (P-4)

2161. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI:
SHRI P. PRABHAKARA REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India will soon put into orbit an indigenously-developed satellite-Ocean Sat (P-4) to scan the oceans around the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and time by which the satellite is proposed to be launched; and

(c) what benefits are expected to accrue as result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Oceansat is part of Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS) series and it will carry two instruments namely, Ocean Colour Monitor (OCM) and Multifrequency Scanning Microwave Radiometer (MSMR). The satellite is getting ready for launch by March/April 1999.

(c) The major benefits of the Oceansat are:

— measurement of ocean parameters which can help to locate potential zones of fish schools;

— Providing better estimates of primary productivity of organic matter in oceans;

— understanding of suspended sediment distribution along coastal waters; and

— Providing important inputs for oceans weather forecast.

Financial Assistance to Irrigation Sector

2162. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area of land in the country in terms of hectare which has so far been covered under irrigation facilities, State-wise;

(b) what is the percentage thereof alongwith the availability of per hectare irrigation sources, State-wise;

(c) what is the financial assistance provided to each State during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) whether additional financial assistance was provided to area of scanty rainfall as well as to drought prone areas and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) State-wise and source-wise details of Net Irrigated Area (NIA) alongwith percentage of the NIA with respect to Net Sown Area (NSA) are given at Annexure- [*See Appendix 185, Annexure No. 53*]

(c) and (d) Besides, Plan allocations to the States for the States Irrigation sector, Central Loan Assistance (CLA) is provided to the State Governments under "Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme" launched since 1996-97 with a view to accelerate completion of selected on-going major and medium irrigation and multi-purpose projects located all over the country including in scanty rainfall and drought prone areas for facilitating early irrigation development. Under the programme, CLA of Rs. 500.00 crore and Rs. 95.19 crores were released to the States during 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively. During 1998-99, against a provisional allocation of Rs. 1500 crore an amount of Rs. 434.73 crore has been released to the State till date. State-wise details of CLA released during 1996-97, 1997-98 & 1998-99 are at enclosed statement.